

**From:** [Ruhl, Christopher](#)  
**To:** [Enders, Jhana](#); [Assunto, Carmen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Media question re: Amarillo  
**Date:** Friday, January 6, 2017 9:19:30 AM

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TCEQ has been asked what is involved in the cleanup process. This is what TCEQ has put together. Jhana, please review for accuracy. Carmen- Looks like they will likely want to share with the press at some time. Should this be a joint release?

Chris Ruhl

USEPA R6 Emergency Response Team Leader

Federal On Scene Coordinator

(214) 665-7356 office

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**From:** Anthony Buck [mailto:Anthony.Buck@tceq.texas.gov]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 05, 2017 4:36 PM

**To:** Ruhl, Christopher

**Subject:** Fwd: Media question re: Amarillo

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Melinda Johnston <[melinda.johnston@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:melinda.johnston@tceq.texas.gov)>

**Date:** January 5, 2017 at 4:35:05 PM CST

**To:** Kelly Cook <[kelly.cook@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:kelly.cook@tceq.texas.gov)>, Anthony Buck  
<[Anthony.Buck@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Anthony.Buck@tceq.texas.gov)>, Michelle Havelka <[michelle.havelka@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:michelle.havelka@tceq.texas.gov)>

**Subject: RE: Media question re: Amarillo**

TCEQ and EPA contractors have located two areas with remnants of activated Aluminum Phosphide pellets located under the house. The remnants from the activated pellets consisted of a grayish-white residual dust which is consistent with spent (activated) Aluminum Phosphide.

The cleanup process for this material involves:

- removing the residual dust from beneath the house and placing it in a disposal container where it will be monitored for an additional 36 hours to ensure that the material has thoroughly reacted and is safe for proper transportation and disposal;
- thoroughly dousing the underside of the house with water to ensure that any possible remaining remnants of the pellets are activated and allowed to off-gas safely. Once the pellets have fully reacted the remaining residual dust should be nonhazardous waste;
- ventilating the house and allow it to air out;
- during this process air monitoring will be continued in and around the house to ensure public safety.

TCEQ and EPA have also been consulting with the product manufacturer and pest control industry experts to ensure the cleanup is conducted in a manner consistent

with industry protocols. Contractors will remain on site to continue air monitoring into next week.

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**From:** Kelly Cook

**Sent:** Thursday, January 05, 2017 4:23 PM

**To:** Melinda Johnston <[melinda.johnston@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:melinda.johnston@tceq.texas.gov)>; Anthony Buck <[Anthony.Buck@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Anthony.Buck@tceq.texas.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Media question re: Amarillo

My write-up:

TCEQ and EPA contractors have located two areas with remnants of activated Aluminum Phosphide pellets located under the house. The remnants from the activated pellets consisted of a grayish-white residual dust which is consistent with spent (activated) Aluminum Phosphide.

The cleanup process for this material involves:

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- thoroughly dousing the underside of the house with water to ensure that any possible remaining remnants of the pellets are activated and allowed to off-gas safely. Once the pellets have fully reacted the remaining residual dust should be nonhazardous waste;
- ventilating the house and allow it to air out;
- during this process air monitoring will be continued in and around the house to ensure public safety.

Since beginning this process the air readings in and under the house have ranged from zero to 0.1 ppm. TCEQ and EPA contractors will remain on site to continue air monitoring into next week.

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**From:** Brian McGovern

**Sent:** Thursday, January 05, 2017 1:53 PM

**To:** Kelly Cook <[kelly.cook@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:kelly.cook@tceq.texas.gov)>

**Cc:** Tracy Miller <[tracy.miller@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:tracy.miller@tceq.texas.gov)>

**Subject:** Media question re: Amarillo

Kelly,

No rush on this...

We have a reporter in Amarillo asking what all is involved with the cleanup process. He basically wants someone to walk him through the process so he can get a good idea of what all is happening.

I plan on telling him that we'll get him an answer when we can, but that the cleanup experts are busy conducting the cleanup, and that it may be a while.

If you've got anything to add, that would be great. Thanks!

**Brian McGovern**

TCEQ Media Relations Specialist

Office: (512) 239-5003

Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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